

unreasonable mandate of high costs on private business. There will be more tough votes ahead, but as I said, I am not afraid of making the difficult choices.

In conclusion, let me just note that I do not intend nor will I pretend to fill the tremendous void left by my predecessor, Senator Bob Dole. He stood as a giant in the Senate and his departure is a great loss to the Senate and to Kansas. But, I do pledge my very best, which I have always given to Kansas. And I am looking forward to working with Bob Dole in his new position of national leadership.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for the warm reception they have extended me. Their good wishes and assistance have been a great help during my first days in the Senate and I look forward to working with the leadership and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we work together to shape our Nation's future. Of course, we may not always agree, but I can assure you that my State of Kansas and the United States of America and the U.S. Senate will always receive my highest efforts and most careful judgment as we face the challenges ahead.

Thank you Mr. President.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR FRAHM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take just a moment to congratulate the distinguished Senator from Kansas for her maiden speech.

Over the last few years, as I have gone back and read the history of the Senate, I have found that there have truly been many magic moments when maiden speeches are made in the Senate, and it is one you will always remember. I remember the first one I made—only I was on the back row over there. The Senator from Kansas is already right up on the front row.

But she has exhibited, Mr. President, all in her brief time in the Senate, that she is a legislator of courage and that she is an experienced legislator. The fact that she is here this afternoon making this maiden speech, saying what she has said and the way she has handled herself, reflects the fact that she has had tremendous experience as a leader in the Kansas State Legislature.

So I commend her for her experience in the past and for her work already in the Senate. She is going to make a great Senator for the State of Kansas like the two Senators we have been serving with earlier this year—Senator KASSEBAUM, of course, and, of course, our great majority leader, Bob Dole. It is a challenge to succeed such giants as those two.

I am convinced that our new Senator is up to the challenge. She has already been given very important committee assignments where I know she will have a chance to provide leadership. I know she is already enjoying the pleasures of being on the Armed Services Committee, having worked on this very bill in the Chamber.

I just wanted to say on behalf of the leadership and all Members of the Republican side of the aisle, in fact the entire Senate, that we are truly pleased and honored to have join us this great Senator from the State of Kansas.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I wish to commend the junior Senator from Kansas on her maiden speech. It is a pleasure for us in the Senate to have such a delightful person join us in this body. She is a lady of integrity, ability and dedication, and will be a great asset to the Senate.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I am particularly proud to have heard the junior Senator from Kansas. I have known Senator FRAHM as a friend in Kansas. I have known her as a majority leader of the Kansas Senate, and I think she spoke in her speech to the qualities that have made her an exemplary leader and legislator in Kansas.

I have every confidence she is going to translate the very skills she spoke to in her maiden speech to the work she carries out in the future on the floor of the Senate, not only for the best interests of Kansas, as she said, but the best interests of the Nation. It is with real pride today that I, the senior Senator from Kansas, heard the maiden speech of the junior Senator from Kansas.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I also wish to join my colleagues in extending well-deserved praise to our new colleague, and particularly since she has joined the Senate Armed Services Committee on which I have been privileged to serve with the distinguished chairman for some many years.

It is interesting to note, Mr. President, I think a footnote in history; California was the first State in the history of the Senate to have two women and how quickly thereafter came a second State. Of course, it is of small distinction—two members of the Democratic Party from California and, proudly, two members of the Republican Party from Kansas. I have always been interested in the history of this institution. It goes way back. The Senator has made history today in two respects. Well done.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. ROTH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. I, too, join in congratulating our new Senator from Kansas. We are particularly proud to have two distinguished women Senators from Kansas. I only wish that we could look forward to both of them continuing to serve that State.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, we have been waiting for 2 months to move forward on critical health insurance reform legislation. During this time, Republicans have compromised again and again, each time in response to concerns raised by the White House and by some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about medical savings accounts.

Mr. President, we have been negotiating in good faith. We have addressed our colleagues' concerns about MSA on both the structure of the insurance plan and the structure of the savings account. We have limited the number of people eligible for the tax-free MSA. We have put forward proposals that are small enough to be considered demonstration projects. We have reduced the maximum contribution that can be made to an MSA. We have reduced the top range of the high deductible. In short, we have bent over backwards to accommodate the White House and some of our Democratic colleagues.

Millions of Americans are counting on us to reach an agreement, counting on us to work together to get the job done here in Washington. Americans with preexisting conditions, Americans who are unable to afford health insurance, small businesses that cannot afford to offer their employees health insurance, millions of Americans need this bill, and they do not have the luxury of time in waiting through more games and more rhetoric.

Legislating is about compromise. Americans want us to compromise and work together to get this legislation signed into law. We have compromised significantly. We do not have much time remaining for legislative business this year, and we have even less time for partisan games on this critical issue. So let us get together and work this out today or in the very immediate future.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we are awaiting momentarily the distinguished majority leader and distinguished Democratic whip to address the Senate on a unanimous consent agreement.

Seeing no Senator seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Without objection, it is so ordered.